TO THE WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have to report that for the year 1898 the number of Deaths in the District to be 106 an average of 15.1 per 1000 per annum as compared with 103 an average of 14.7 per 1000 per annum for 1897.

The actual number of deaths in the District was 101 but I have included five deaths which occurred in the Workhouse of people belonging to the District.

Of Infants under one year 20 deaths are registered as against 21 in 1897.

Of children under five years there are 3 deaths as compared with 8 in 1897.

Between the ages of 5 & 15 there are 2 deaths as compared with 9 in 1897.

Between the ages of 15 & 25 there are 6 deaths as compared with 4 deaths in 1897.

Between the ages of 25 & 65 there are 41 deaths as compared with 24 deaths in 1897.

From 65 & upwards there are 27 deaths as compared with 37 in 1897. Seventeen of there being septuagenarians & six octogenarians.

Seven inquests were held as against six in 1897.

One death was due to Typhoid Fever.

One death to Erysipelas.

Five deaths to Diarrhoea & Dysentery.

Eight deaths to Phthisis.

Twenty-two to Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy.

Twelve to Heart Disease.

Two to Influenza &

Fifty-five to other Diseases.

The Maximum deaths occurred in August when 15 deaths were registered and the Minimum in January & June with three deaths in each month.

Amongst the deaths of infants, eight were notified as being due to Tuberculosis of the bowels or brain.

As it is a well- known fact that children are not infected with Tuberculosis at birth and the only food for infants is milk, the question arises Did they acquire the disease from infected milk? I think there is only one answer to the question and I wish to insist on the necessity in feeding children of always boiling the milk before use.

The number of deaths of adults from Phthisis is seven. The localities in which they occurred are-One in Water Lane, two in Morley, two in Devonport Green, one in South Oak Lane, and one in Gravel Lane. There were no deaths from Phthisis in the village itself, none in Dean Row & none in Fulshaw.

There were also seven deaths from Cancer during the year. Of these three occurred in the Manchester Road, one in Oak Lane, one in Morley, one in South Oak Lane & one in the Workhouse.

The number of Births in 1898 were 183 as against 165 in 1897. In this list 100 are males and 83 females. There are eight children registered as illegitimate, 6 males &

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The number of births in 1895 were 165 as against 166 in 1894. In this list 100 are males and 65 females. There are eight children registered as illegitimate,3 males &

2 females, as against 6 in 1897, seven in 1896, & fourteen in 1895.

The Infectious diseases notified are-

Scarlet Fever, seven cases.

Diphtheria, three cases.

Enteric Fever, five cases.

Erysipelas, one case.Total 16 cases as against 44in 1897.

The usual Inspection of Slaughter houses, Bakehouses, & Lodging houses has been made & everything has been found to be in satisfactory condition.

The Water supply has been the cause (as during the last two years) of numerous complaints and I cannot do more than repeat what I said in my last report "that although there is little doubt that the water is harmless, still Ido not consider that it should be delivered to the consumer in such condition that it is necessary to have it filtered to make it palatable".

The Dairies, Cowshed & Milkshop Act is to be put in force immediately. This has long been desired and I have little doubt when enforced, that it will be of great benefit to the community.

Arrangements have been made with Prof. Delépine of Owens College whereby Medical Practitioners can obtain a Bacteriological Examination in doubtful cases of Diphtheria or Enteric Fever (the Council undertaking to pay the fees) I need not say what enormous advantage an early and accurate diagnosis will be to the patient & to the community at large.

The Ashpit Question. There is no regular system of

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The Asbpit Question. There is no regular system of

emptying the ashpits. It is necessary for the tenant to give notice to the Council's Officer if he wishes this to be done by the Council & he has to pay for the work.I think this is absolutely wrong. In my opinion the Council ought to systematically have them emptied at stated intervals.

During the year three houses have been condemned as unfit for human habitation and have been closed.

I am still of opinion that there ought to be a Public Slaughter house and I beg to quote in confirmation, the opinion of Sir Richard Thorne Thorne Medical Officer of Health to the Local Government Board on the subject. He says "It is demanded as an act of Justice to those trading in Meat, It is demanded in the interests of Public Health and decency, It is demanded for the Prevention of Cruelty to the lower Animals, and it is demanded in order to bring England somewhat nearer to the level of other civilised nations in the matter".

The Northern & Southern Drainage Scheme is now complete & numerous houses have been connected therewith.

I think the Council ought to take into consideration the closing of all wells in the district and to insist where practicable on all houses being supplied with a pure and constant water supply.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obdt. Servant,

Thomas A Somerville.

Medical Officer of Health.

Lynwood, Wilmslow. 6,Feb. 1899.

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EXCELSIOR

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